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E. & P. H. (1948) Department.

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Letter
G.O. No. 141 P H

5.

Dated 23. 3. 48.

[Despatch Abstract.]

P.H. - Review of health conditions in the Madras Province during 1947 Letter to Dr. General of Health Services -India.

Preliminary Report on health conditions in Madras Province during 1947;

Vital Statistics:

The final figures of births and deaths for 1947 are not available as a considerable proportion of the village returns have not been received. Correcting for the non-receipt of returns on a proportionate basis, the estimated birth and death rates for 1947 are 34.8 and 21.3 pe 1000 population respectively.

The corresponding figures for 1946 are 34.2 and 20.4 respectively. There has been, thus, little change in the birth rate of the Province in 1947 as compared to the previous year while the death rate has shown a small increase. This increase in death rate was due largely to increas deaths registered under Cholera, Dysentery and Diarrhoea.

CHOLERA:

There was stray infection in a few districts in the first quarter of 1947 while the second quarter was almost free. Towards the end of the 3rd quarter, however, the disease assumed epidemic proportions in the North Vizagapatam District, with slight infiltration into East Godavari, and Kistna districts. At about the same time, infection starte in the Sourthern districts of Trichinopoly and Madura and rapidly spread to Ramnad, Tinnevelly, South Arcot and Coimbatore. Necessary control measures were instituted promptly in all cases and anti-cholera inoculations were pushed on vigourously.

SMALL-POX:

During the year 1947, 4851 attacks and 883 deaths were reported from Smallpox in the whole province. Compared with the years 1945 and 1946, there was a large decline in the incidence of the disease. The districts which had a comparatively heavy incidence were Vizagapatam, Kistna, Guntur,Kurnool, Cuddapah, Anantapur and Chittoor.

PLAGUE:

Plague was prevalent in the districts of the Nilgiris, Anantapur Chittoor, Salem, Madura, Coimbatore, Malabar, South Arcot, North Arcot, Trichinopoly and Bellary. Necessary preventive and control measures were promptly taken.

MALARIA AND MOSQUITO BORNE DISEASES:

Malaria continued to be one of the major public health problems and the numerous programmes launched for its investigation and control continued to operate as in the previous year. The Malaria Bureau under the charge of an Assistant Director of Public Health with four Regional Malariologists, each provided with a static and two mobile units continued to function during the year in addition to the several anti-malarial schemes and special schemes in connection with Irrigation, Conolisation and Hydro-electric schemes.

The following new schemes were sanctioned during the year:-

1. A scheme for educating the boatmen plying in Buckingham Canal in methods of Malaria control and personal proplylaxis.
2. Coimbatore District Anti-Malarial Scheme.
3. Employment of a separate first class health officer to be incharge of all anti-malarial schemes in Vizagapatam district.
4. Expansion of Krishnadevipeta and Chodavaram Anti-malarial Units.
5. Expansion of the Thungabadra Project Anti-malarial scheme.
6. Schemes for permanent Anti-malarial measures were sanctioned for Hospet Municipality; and for improving Raya and Basavanna Channels at a cost of Rs.75,000/-

P.T.O.

The anti-malarial measures included mainly, adult spraying of houses with D.D.T. and Pyrethrum in the case of rural areas, paris-greening, oiling, canalisation and other antilarval measures in the urban areas, intensification and expansion of the scheme for free distribution of anti-malarial drugs and appointment of additional agents therefor, free distribution of antimosquito cream to Non-Gazetted Government servants and Health Education and publicity through health exhibition and pamphlets. M Paludrine has been tested in the field in a large number of villages and found to be very effective both for treatment and prophylaxis of malaria.

Statutory provisions for Malaria control under Madras Public Health Act were extended to 6 additional municipalities and two panchayat boards.

65 Additional Sanitary inspectors and Health Inspectors were trained in Malaria control during the year and short course in the use of D.D.T. was given to the District Health Officers at the Regional Centres.

Filariasis surveys have been conducted in Mangalore Municipality and Kasargod and Tiruvellore panchayat boards and Panamallee Health Unit Authorities for implementation. Proposals for a vigourous drive against Filariasis which is endemic in several localities in the Province, have also been sent to Government.
Areas and proposals for control have been sent to the respective local

GUINEAWORM:

Guineaworm infestation is prevalent in sixteen districts in this Province.

The biological method of control by the introduction of certain species of fish in the infested wells is in propgress in Uravakonda sub-taluk of Anantapur district and in West Godavari district. The clinical method of destroying the cyclops by the application of water with bleaching powder is in progress in Gooty taluk of Anantapur district. The results achieved for the clinical method so far are promising. Poor finances of the local bodies stand in the way of starting control work in other districts. The district boards of East Godavari, Guntur, Kurnool, Trichinopoly and Coimbatore have however, provided funds for instituting the biological method of control.

Steps to expedite the provisions of draw wells in rural areas as a permanent control measure and being taken. Intensive propaganda on Guinea-worm control measures was also carried out by practical demonstration in the field and by the distribution of leaflets on the subject.

NUTRITION:

Investigations of the prevailing dietary practices were carried out in about 1725 families and 4 students' hostels from 155 different areas in the districts of Trichinopoly, Tinnevelly, Ramnad, Madura, Salem Coimbatore, North Arcot, South Arcot, Chingleput, Chittoor, Cuddappah, Kurnool, Nellore, Tanjore, Malabar, Anantapur and Bellary. Most of these investigations were undertaken maong communities belonging to low income groups.

The Nutritional condition of 1,700 children of these areas was x also studied. Specific deficiencies of vitamin 'A' and 'B' were commonly observed. Sub-clinical signs of other food deficiencies were also noticed among them in most areas. The height and weight of nearly 13,700 children from differnnt areas were also recorded to assess their nutrititional on a comparative basis.

Five exhibitions emphasising all the practical aspects of food and nutrition were organised during the year. Copies of pamphlets on 'Simple Food Receipes' in Malayalam and Kanarese were distributed widely in the districts where the language are spoken and reprints of an article entitled "Poor Man's Diet" by the Nutrition Officer of this department were also distributed among the Health staff.

The Health staff has been inspecting rice mills to ensure hygienic methods in the production of both par-boiled and raw rice. P.T.O.

The area organisers of the Indian Women Civil Corps, the Women Medical Officers under the Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme, and two batches of Rural Recreation officers were trained in food and nutrition during the year.

Studies in scientific cooking, formulation of palatable receipes with unaccustomed food stuffs, examination of food stuffs for wholesomeness for human consumption, studies in efficient methods of storage of food grains and pulses, preparation of materials for demonstration during ~~Laboratory during~~ Nutrition Exhibition etc., formed the chief activities of the Nutrition Laboratory during the period. Materials are also being collected for equipping a nutrition museum in Madras.

The activities of the Nutrition Bureau included the promotion of the manufacture of compost manure from town refuse and excreta. 89 local bodies were manufacturing the manure during the year. The total production of manure in these places amounted to 5-07 million cubic feet and of this 3-94 million cubic feet was sold to the ryots.

OREVENTION OF ADULTERATION:

236 Local Bodies were working the Madras Prevention of Food Adulteration Act during the year. The general percentage of adulteration of food remained almost at the same figure as of last year as shown below:-

	Percentage of adulteration.	
	1946	1947
Ghee	18.5	15.5
Milk	62.4	59.6
Butter	21.5	23.0
Gingelly Oil	17.2	17.2
Other samples	15.2.	19.0

The average fine imposed in the whole of the Province remained the same as of last year viz. Rs,49/-

Maternity Relief and Child Welfare:

22 new child welfare centres were opened during the year by various local bodies bringing the total number of centres in the Province 312.

Women Medical Officers conducted 6854 clinics for anti-natal and nursing mothers and infants, paid 67533 home visits and delivered 1329 health talks in 718 girls schools, the attendance at the talks being 67, 627 in all.

The Health Visitors paid about 31 thousand home visits and conducted nearly 10 thousand mothers classes at which the total attendance was estimated to be nearly 88 thousands.

The midwives of the maternity and Child Welfare Schemes under the Local Bodies have cared for nearly 22 lakhs of anti-natal cases and more than 80 thousand labour cases. They have also made nearly 6 lakhs anti-natal visits, 6 lakhs post-natal visits and a lakh visits to infants.

The local bodies evinced keen interest in the extension of Maternity and Child Welfare Work, but there was a lack of qualified hands to fill up the posts of Woman Medical Officers on account of the unsatisfactory emoluments offered.

FAIR AND FESTIVALS:

Sanitary arrangements were made for seval fairs and festivals held during the year and they were so thorough that no outbreak of epidemic occurred in any festival.

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WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE:

The Government constituted a committee to consider the question of expediting the investigation, design and execution of all water supply and drainage schemes both urban and rural. The report of the Committee is under the consideration of Government.

SANITATION:

The programme for the provision of water borne sanitary conveniences of the septic tank type in municipal and non-municipal areas has been pushed on during the year.

With refere regard to the sanitary upkeep and maintenance of coffee and meals hotels, restaurants, sweetmeat bazaars and other places where articles of food are prepared or exposed for sale to the public, provisions of the Madras Public Health Act were strictly enforced through the Health staff.

PROPAGANDA:

Cinema shows, magic lantern demonstrations, health exhibitions, lectures and talks and distribution of leaflets and posters were the usual methods of health propaganda. About 1376 cinema shows, 1959 magic lantern lectures, 1439 lectures, 255 health exhibitions and 8197 health talks were conducted during the year. The department also participated in four important exhibitions.

POONAMALLEE HEALTH UNIT:

The reorganised health unit continued to function during the year. Special attention was paid to maternity and child welfare work and improvement of water supply and sanitation.

POST WAR RECONSTRUCTION:

Under Scheme No.92 the Government have sanctioned the starting of 6 Primary Health Centres with a taluk centre in a selected taluk in the districts of Coimbatore, Guntur, Kurnool, South Malabar and North Arcot Erode, Tenali, Nandyal, Palghat and Tiruvannamalai are the taluks selected for the purpose. Necessary steps are being taken to implement the scheme.

(True copy)

Superintendent,
Madras Record Office.

RCB/

Edn. & P.H. Deptt.(E1)

Letter(Ms) No.941 P.H. dated 23-3-48.

To

The Director-General of Health Services, India,
New Delhi (with enclosures)

Sir,

Sub:- Public Health - Review of health conditions in M the Madras Province during 1947.

Ref:- Letter from the D.P.H.,Madras R.No.7188-1/VS dated 6-3-1948.

I am directed to state that the Government of Madras generally agree with the report on public health conditions in the Madras Province during 1947 forwarded by the Director of Public Health, Madras with his letter referred to above. A copy of the report is sent herewith.

Yours obedient servant.

C.O.Coorey,
JT.Secy.

(True copy)

Superintendent.
Madras Record Office.

RCB/

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